A New Species of Knema

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Knema meridionalis J. Sinclair, sp. nov. Fig. 1.

K. furfuraceae (Hk. f. et Th.) Warb. similis sed foliis non cordatis, minoribus, nervis paucioribus, fructibus minoribus.

Frutex vel arbor parva 5-7 m. alta, dioicea. Ramuli foliaque novelli cum tomento stellato floccoso ferrugineo tecti. mox glabri. Folia adulta coriacea, lanceolata, supra viridissima, subtus albido-viridia, apice et basi acuta, circiter 18-19 cm. longa, circiter 5 cm. lata; petioli 7 mm.-1 cm. longi, pubescentes; nervi per pares 19-21 dispositi, curvati. in marginibus anastomosantes, omnes costaque elevati; reticulationes subtus praecipue in sicco visibiles, supra vix visibiles. Flores masculi 3-5, in tuberculis lignosis axillares vel in axillis foliorum delapsorum orti. Pedicelli 3-4 mm. longi, ferrugineo-tomentosi, bractea minuta truncata prope basin praediti, Perianthii segmenta 3-4, circiter 5 mm. longa, coriacea, ovato-rotunda, a basi conjuncta, extus ferrugineo-stellato-tomentosa, intus punicea, apice acutiuscula vel obtusa, erecta vel leviter incurva. Discus staminalis triangularis vel peltatus, stipite circiter 1 mm. longo rubro; anthera 11-12, brevissime stipitata, sub-erecta. Flores feminei sessiles, 7-10, in tuberculis lignosis axillaribus orti. Perianthii segmenta ut in masculo, sed magis coriacea et rigida. Stigmata viridia, infundibuliformia, apice multilobata. Ovarium hemisphericum, atro-fusco-stellato-pubescens, ovulo solitario. Fructus c. 1.7 cm. longus, obovatus, sessilis, ferrugineo-stellato-tomentosus, apice obtusus, ad basin sensim angustatus, pyriformis. Semen basale, carpellum implens, arillo pallido-aurantiaco apice laciniato tectum.

JOHORE: Sungei Sedili, Mawai, Corner S.F.N. 29277; Sungei Berassau, Mawai-Jemaluang Road, Corner S.F.N. 28975; 5½ mile, Kota Tinggi—Mawai Road, Corner, date 10: 5: 1935; 8th mile Kota Tinggi—Mawai Road, Corner S.F.N. 28711; 13½ mile Mawai-Jemaluang Road, Corner S.F.N. 29420; Sungei Tementang, Mawai-Jemaluang Road, Corner S.F.N. 29290; North of Gunong Blumut, Holttum

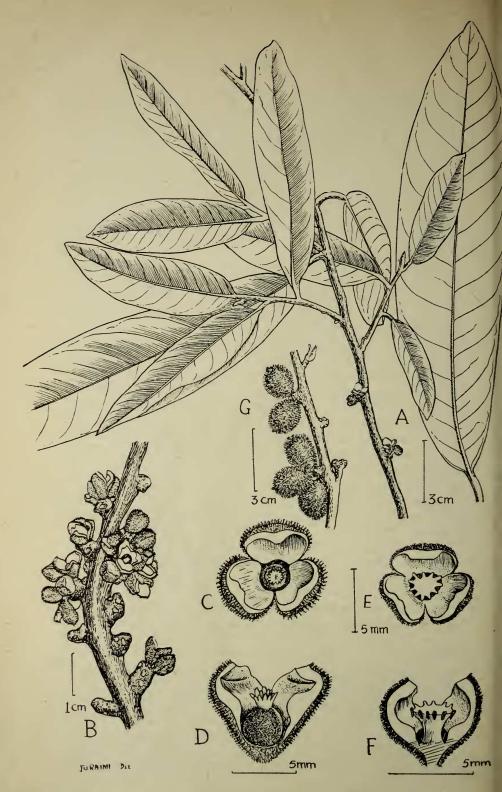


Fig. 1. Knema meridionalis J. Sinclair, sp. nov.
A, Portion with leaves and male flowers. B, Twig with female flowers. C and D Female flowers top and side views. E and F, Male flowers top and side views G, Fruit.

S.F.N. 10606; Bukit Tanah Alang, Lake and Kelsall 4012; Bukit Abu Bakar, Nur and Kiah S.F.N. 7757; Mt. Austin, Ridley, date 1906.

SINGAPORE: South side of MacRitchie Reservoir near golf course, Sinclair S.F.N. 38561; Maranta Avenue, Botanic Gardens, Sinclair S.F.N. 38914; Lawn 0, Botanic Gardens, Sinclair S.F.N. 38915; Bukit Timah, Ngadiman S.F.N. 34957; Chan Chu Kang, Goodenough, date 27: 11: 1890 and Ridley 6737; Kranji, Ridley 2943; Bukit Pan-

jang, Ridley 12541; Sungei Morai, Ridley 6440.

This species appears to be confined to the south of the Peninsula. It is not uncommon in the MacRitchie Reservoir forest in Singapore. The description of the male flowers is taken from Sinclair S.F.N. 38914, the female from Sinclair S.F.N. 38915 and that of the fruit from Sinclair S.F.N. 38561. The midrib and the veins are red and they are conspicuously raised on the upper side of the leaf as well as the under. This species is near K. furfuracea (Hk. f. et Th.) Warb. but the latter has more veins, larger leaves and a larger fruit. The leaf base is never cordate in meridionalis. It is nearly always acute but occasionally slightly rounded.